

STATINTL

Senator Dodd and Guatemala

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Senator Dodd has shown a great concern over the problem of Americans who profess the Communist political philosophy. Rightly, the great fear here is not that these people are about to overthrow the U. S. Government, but that they owe allegiance to a foreign country, the U.S.S.R., which is our mortal enemy. This is all well and good, but Senator Dodd's own standards have been subject to some criticism, especially from Sen. J. W. Fulbright.

The June 21 edition of the *Congressional Record* (page 10,227) reveals that in the years 1957 and 1958 Senator Dodd was himself registered as an agent of a foreign government, acting in behalf of Guatemala. In 1957 he received \$24,999.96 and in 1958 \$41,666.62 from this source. As a reminder, Thomas Dodd was a member of the House of Representatives from 1952-1956 and campaigned successfully for the U. S. Senate in 1958. Those were nice campaign contributions.

Furthermore, in 1956, his last year in the House, he succeeded in raising the defense support allocation to Guatemala from \$5 million to \$15 million. He accomplished this by (1) raising the commitment in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, (2) demanding more aid for Guatemala in a speech to the House on June 6, 1956, (3) introducing on June 7 an amendment providing still an additional \$5 million, and (4) making a speech to the House on June 11 in order "to make perfectly plain the legislative intent" that the additional funds were to go to Guatemala.

Granted, my knowledge of American history is rather sketchy, but I can't seem to remember when Guatemala was admitted to the Union. I only wish my Senators would work as hard for my state.

JOHN WILLIAMS,
Member, Young Americans
for Freedom,
Takoma Park, Md.

I wish to thank *The Washington Post* for the courtesy of giving me an opportunity to comment on the letter of Mr. Williams.

The facts of this matter are simple and have always been

a matter of public record. I was serving in the House at the time when Guatemalan patriots overthrew a Communist regime there and assumed direction of a country whose economic and fiscal condition had been almost destroyed. I felt that as a part of our multibillion-dollar foreign aid program, we should give some attention to this Latin American neighbor which, in ousting the Communists, had succeeded in doing what had never been done before and which, as a result, desperately needed assistance.

My action in seeking increased foreign aid was prompted by my admiration for what the new government had done, by my desire to make it a showcase indicating that we were prepared to help any people who overthrew communism, and by my conviction that we had shamefully neglected our Latin American neighbors.

From January, 1957, to January, 1959, I was a private citizen engaged in the private practice of law. Among my clients, I was fortunate enough to have the Government of Guatemala, whose President, the martyred patriot Castillo Armas, personally asked me, as a lawyer, to represent his country.

The legal fees to which Mr. Williams refers were paid to me and my associates and have always been a matter of public record.

The sort of attack contained in this letter has recurred intermittently over the past few years. It has been circulated most widely by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which I helped to expose as a Communist-front. The attack normally recurs after I have been engaged in some public dispute and I assume the Williams letter was prompted by the exchange between *The Washington Post* and myself over my speech concerning Dr. White of the USIA.

Your contributor, Mr. Williams, running true to form, does not choose to meet my arguments but attempts to vilify me personally through distortion, innuendo and misrepresentation.

THOMAS J. DODD,
Senator from Connecticut,
Washington.

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